Inclusion of oil and gas in GATS of WTO

4760. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has suggested that India should ask for inclusion of the oil and natural gas sector as an independent classification under the General agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) at the ongoing World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations; and

(b) if so, in what manner this would help the oil and natural gas sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Independent classification of oil and gas sector under GATS has been suggested for the following important reasons :

(i) Oil and gas has emerged as a very vital sector for developing economies and therefore, requires focussed attention.

(ii) It will give clarity to identify and focus on issues relating to energy services in the process of WTO negotiations.

LPG requirement of AP

4761. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the monthly requirement of LPG in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) what is the LPG bottling capacity of the State, Oil Company-wise;

(c) whether bottling capacity in the State fulfils the demand of the State; and

(d) if not, what alternative arrangements are being made to meet the full demand in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) The present monthly requirement of LPG of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in the State of Andhra Pradesh is 56.5 Thousand Metric Tonne (TMT).

(b) The total bottling capacity available with OMCs in the State of Andhra Pradesh is 574 Thousand Metric Tonne Per Annum (TMTPA).

(c) and (d) OMCs are extending the hospitality assistance to each other to meet their requirement in the State. However, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is also taking the supplies from their own bottling plant at

Gummidipondi (Tamil Nadu) to meet their demand of nearby markets of Chittoor and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh. BPCL is setting up a LPG bottling plant at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh with a bottling capacity of 44 TMT to supplement the bottling capacity.

Excess handling capacity at Demulgaon

4762. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC created excess handling capacity at Demulgaon in 1999;

(b) if so, the amount spent thereon;

(c) whether the existing facilities are sufficient for handling even its future production; and

(d) if so, the justification for making unnecessary expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR) : (a) to (d) Initially, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) made arrangements on temporary basis for oil production from the well in the area through Well Head Installation (WHI) at Demulgaon. Subsequently, based on the scheme conceptualised by the Institute of Reservoir Studies (IRS) of ONGC, a new full-fledged Group Gathering Station (GGS) was approved at a cost of Rs. 13.82 crores at Demulgaon in view of the potential of areas in and around Demulgaon field. The project was completed at a cost of Rs. 18.02 crores as against the revised sanctioned cost of Rs. 19.60 crores mainly due to the environmental problems in the region and the related division of the project into a number of small packages.

Handing over of protected monuments and heritage sites to private agencies in Rajasthan

4763. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial allocations made to Rajasthan and other States for the preservation of protected monuments and heritage sites for the current financial year 2002-03 has been properly utilised;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons for non-utilisation of the funds;

(d) whether Government propose to hand over these sites to private agencies on sponsored basis for the maintenance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?